

DD/M&S 74-1556

3 MAY 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Retiree Homecoming Day

Bill:

1. This is to advise that all indications are that there will be a very heavy attendance of retirees at the homecoming day, to the extent that we are increasingly concerned that seating capacity of the auditorium might well be pushed beyond its capacity. By way of a status report, there are the following developments:

a. Our first mailing of invitations consisted of 1,014 letters, there were 737 responses, and 439 individuals have already indicated that they plan to attend the event.

b. We have recently sent out an additional 200 invitations to retirees, many of whom have indicated either directly or indirectly that they were interested in participating in homecoming day. A high percentage of these individuals are likely to attend.

c. The best estimate at this point is that about 550 retirees will be present on 11 May, in an auditorium having a permanent seating capacity of 500. At the very most, an additional 100 temporary seats might be added.

d. The above projections do not take into account the fact that there might very well be a considerable number of late decisions by individuals who have received invitations and decide at the 11th hour to attend.

2. In the course of this screening exercise, and the numerous calls asking for invitations or recommending that friends receive invitations, it has become clear that our search for addresses was less than complete. As a result of another review involving different records, we have identified another 350 retirees whose last known address was in the local area. If we now send invitations to this new group, there is a strong likelihood that we will be seriously oversubscribed, and we might even be forced at the last minute to send out a carefully worded letter of regret, suggesting that they attend the next homecoming affair.

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3. In considering all facets of the program and the general enthusiasm that is developing, I believe the most prudent and reasonable course is to not send invitations to this new group. As was recognized in the substance of these letters, our data on retiree addresses is somewhat "unreliable," and until now there has been no strong need to maintain current information. My belief is that we should be completely candid with those former employees who raise questions in this regard, and we might point out that they will be included in the next homecoming program. There are obvious risks that some individuals might be disappointed with this approach, but I am convinced that we have reached the stage where there should be a cutoff on additional invitations for the 11 May homecoming event.

/s/ Harold L. Brownman

HAROLD L. BROWMAN
Deputy Director
for
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cc: DDCI

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